WRITTEN ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

HUDCO Loan for Housing in Madhya Pradesh

*241. SHRI SURESH PACHOURI: Will the Minister of URBAN DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether HUDCO has approved a policy to finance over forty-five thousand houses in Madhya Pradesh this year;

(b) if so, what are the details thereof;

(c) what are the areas where these houses are likely to be built;

(d) what financial assistance is proposed to be provided for the purpose;

(e) whether HUDCO has also agreed to provide loans to individuals to build six thousand houses in the State; and

(f) if so, by when these houses are likely to be completed and the mode of recovery of these loans?

THE MINISTER OF URBAN DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI MOHSINA KIDWAI): (a) to (f) At the beginning of every financial year, HUDCO allocates a specific amount to be sanctioned as loan for various housing and related infrastructural development schemes and programmes in each State/Union Territory, keeping in view the area and population of the respective State/Union Territories. HUDCO, as a techno-financial institution, does not fix State-wise targets in terms of number of houses to be financed. The total allocation of HUDCO loans for the year 1988-89 is Rs. 390 crores, out of which Rs. 32.59 crores have been earmarked for Madhya Pradesh. In addition, loan assistance is also provided to regular borrowing agencies for acquisition of land for their future housing projects.

HUDCO has, so far, during the current financial year, sanctioned a loan of Rs. 1.93 crores for three schemes in Madhya Pradesh for the construction of 433 houses and 6905 basic sanitation units, in the towns of Sanchi, Ujjain and Bilaspur.

HUDCO does not provide loan assistance to individuals direct. Individuals can, however, avail themselves of HUDCO loan through States Housing Boards/Development Agencies under the Cash Loan Schemes.

Lifting of Price Control on EC Grades Aluminium

*242. SHRI M. KADHARSHA:
DR. C. SILVERA:

Will the Minister of STEEL AND MINES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the news item which appeared in the Business Standard of the 24th July, 1988 under the caption 'Price Control on EC Grades Aluminium may be lifted';

(b) if so, what are the considerations which forced Government to lift price control on EC grade aluminium;

(c) whether Government are aware that primary producers of aluminium are likely to increase the prices to have some parity with the already high import prices;

(d) whether Government have conducted any survey with regard to the percentage of indirect burden on consumers since the aluminium

cables are used by electricity boards; Defence and other Govt. undertakings; and

(e) if so, the percentage of ultimate price burden likely to be passed on to the consumers?

THE MINISTER OF STEEL AND MINES (SHRI MAKHAN LAL FOTEDAR): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) No decision has been taken to lift the price control on primary aluminium.

(c) to (e) Do not arise.

Modernisation of Laboratories of Bureau of Indian Standards

*243. DR. RATNAKAR PANDEY:
DR. ABRAR AHMED KHAN:

Will the Minister of FOOD AND CIVIL SUPPLIES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to modernise laboratories run by Bureau of Indian Standards so that their results are acceptable at the international level; and

(b) whether Government also propose to set up some more laboratories in the near future, if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF FOOD AND CIVIL SUPPLIES (SHRI SUKH RAM): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. During the Seventh Five Year Plan, it had been envisaged to establish a laboratory each in Bangalore, Gandhi Nagar (Gujarat) and Lucknow and to expand the laboratories at Calcutta and Madras. The Bangalore laboratory has already been commissioned.

Setting up of an Exclusive News Gathering Agency for Doordarshan

*245. SHRI SURESH KALMADI: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to set up a news gathering agency exclusively for Doordarshan;

(b) if so, what steps have been taken in this direction;

(c) whether it is a fact that some officers of the Indian Information Service have raised objections regarding the appointments for the proposed agency; and

(d) if so, what is Government's reaction thereto?

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI H. K. L. BHAGAT): (a) to (d) Strengthening and reorganisation of the news set-up in Doordarshan have become necessary for adequate collection of news material from different parts of the country as also from abroad and for better presentation of news. This will provide Doordarshan with the capacity to have its own news-gathering apparatus also.

Additional posts including 57 posts of TV News Correspondents/TV Assistant News Correspondents|TV Assistant News Editors in Artist category were sanctioned in April, 1987. Procurement of equipment exclusively for news production is also proposed. The civil posts sanctioned have been filled by cadre officers. The posts in Artist category have been filled by direct recruitment.

Applications were filed in the Central Administrative Tribunal, Delhi, against the recruitment of TV News Correspondents|TV Assistant News Correspondents|TV Assistant News Editors.